

Juvenile Investigations Policy

I. Policy

A court-ordered Predisposition Investigation (PDI), Juvenile court-Requested Information (JCRI), or Predisposition Investigation Update (PDI Update) shall be prepared in accordance with the specific format and procedures as determined by the Administrative Office of Probation.

II. Purpose

Court-ordered investigation, including appropriate court-ordered behavioral health evaluation, assists the court in entering an appropriate disposition and guides supervision of any disposition to probation or for commitment to the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers.

Investigations provide the court with comprehensive background information on the juvenile and family. Investigations may include, but are not limited to: family and environment, education, prior record, behavioral health screening, incorporation of behavioral health evaluation results, and assessment of risk/needs to develop recommendations as to services and supervision strategies which could reduce the juvenile's risk.

III. Reference

[Neb. Rev. Stat. § 29-2258](#)

[Neb. Rev. Stat. § 29-2261](#)

[Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-246](#)

[Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-247](#)

[Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-281](#)

[Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-282](#)

[Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-290](#)

IV. Procedure

A. Format

Each probation district shall ensure each of the following categories are consistent statewide for both predisposition and post-disposition functions. The investigation shall be in compliance with Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) and Enhanced Family Engagement Principles.

1. Investigation Set-up (Nebraska Probation Information System)

Once the court has ordered the juvenile and family to participate in either a PDI or a JCRI, the probation district shall engage the juvenile and family for investigation set-up purposes.

2. Interview

Each investigation will utilize the skills and techniques of Motivational Interviewing

a) Setting

While completing interviews, juveniles and their parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be provided a setting conducive to confidentiality, motivational interviewing, and the gathering of information. The juvenile and their parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be interviewed separately as applicable.

3. Evaluation Ordered During Investigation

During an investigation any behavioral health evaluation ordered by the court or as allowed by the court shall be completed as necessary.

a) Investigations occurring in conjunction with an evaluation will be submitted to the court no later than three working days prior to the disposition hearing.

b) Evaluation results will be considered by the investigative officer and incorporated into the final investigation recommendations.

4. Predisposition court Conditions and Supervision

Court-ordered supervision by a probation officer during the course of an investigation will be conducted in accordance with the [Juvenile Post-Adjudication/Predisposition Supervision](#) Policy.

a) The juvenile's progress while under pre-adjudication and/or post-adjudication/predisposition supervision shall be incorporated into the investigation.

5. Courtesy Investigations

When a district is ordered to complete an investigation on a juvenile who resides outside of the district, a courtesy investigation may be requested.

B. Predisposition Investigation (PDI)

The PDI is a comprehensive investigation outlining the background and current status of a juvenile who is awaiting disposition. The information obtained is to be specific to the circumstances of the offense, family situation, and risk of the juvenile in order to provide detailed information that will assist the court in determining a proper disposition.

Areas of information gathering shall include, but are not limited to:

a) Current court case demographics and description of offense

b) Juvenile and family demographic information

- c) Prior and current court involvement
- d) Family circumstances and parenting
- e) Education/Employment
- f) Peer relations
- g) Substance Abuse
- h) Leisure/Recreation
- i) Personality and Behavior
- j) Attitude orientation
- k) Mental and physical health
- l) History of physical/sexual abuse or neglect
- m) Statements from the juvenile and victim
- n) Family ability to access services; and
- o) Juvenile and family recommendations

C. Juvenile Court-Requested Information (JCRI)

The JCRI report was developed specifically at the request of the courts for use in cases where Judges may not require the depth of information contained in a PDI. The focus of the investigation is around assessment, criminal history, victim information, and recommendations.

1. The JCRI shall be used for the following cases:
 - a) By order of the court.
 - b) A juvenile that has failed to report for a scheduled investigation interview.
2. Any evaluation ordered or indicated in conjunction with the JCRI will follow item A3 of this policy.
3. Areas of information gathering shall include, but are not limited to:
 - a) Current court case demographics and description of offense
 - b) Juvenile and family demographic information
 - c) Statements from the juvenile and victim
 - d) Prior and current court involvement

- e) Juvenile and family recommendations

D. Updated Investigations

Investigation Updates are an extension of the previous investigation and may be completed if the juvenile is currently under probation supervision, or had been discharged from probation within 6 months prior to the investigation order.

- a) PDI Update

The Predisposition Investigation Update shall update all information sections included in the original investigation and shall be completed in response to a court order for a PDI Update.

- b) Any evaluation ordered or indicated in conjunction with an investigation update will follow item A3 of this policy.

E. Transition from Investigations to Supervision

Probation districts shall ensure a seamless transition for the juvenile from investigation to supervision; establishing a connection between the PDI and the order of probation. The transition will include consideration for when the investigation and supervision officer are not the same individual.

F. Juvenile Confidentiality

All probation related information shall be held in strict confidentiality, consistent with the [Juvenile Confidential Record Information and Sealed Records Policy](#).